



## CURE Epilepsy Grants Policy

Research grants awarded by Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, doing business as CURE Epilepsy (“CURE Epilepsy”) are governed by the policy set forth herein. Terms of this policy are subject to revision or alteration at any time by CURE Epilepsy.

### SECTION I: MISSION AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

**CURE Epilepsy’s mission is to find a cure for epilepsy, by promoting and funding patient-focused research.**

The following priority areas reflect CURE Epilepsy’s focus on advances that have the potential to truly transform and save lives. Prevention and disease modification/elimination are critical goals and consistent with our mission.

- Transformative research to enhance our understanding of the cellular, molecular, genetic, and systems-level mechanisms that lead to any of the epilepsies, facilitating the continued investigation of disease-modifying or preventative strategies.
- Innovative approaches that can prevent, modify and/or arrest the development of acquired epilepsy after stroke, tumor, viral infection, etc.
- Research that will inform the development of novel therapies to prevent onset or halt the progression of the severe pediatric epilepsies.
- Research focused on new, effective treatments for the >30% of the epilepsy population who are pharmacoresistant.
- Novel research that furthers our understanding of the causes and ultimate elimination of SUDEP.
- Translational, clinical, and clinically informed basic research that will facilitate elevated understanding of the cellular-, molecular-, and systems-level mechanisms that underlie the relationships between sleep and epilepsy.

### SECTION II: RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Unless otherwise specified, these policies and procedures pertain to CURE Epilepsy’s grant awards, as well as CURE Epilepsy-driven initiatives. CURE Epilepsy funds researchers working at universities, companies, and non-profit institutions.

#### 1. Programs

##### 1.1 Taking Flight Award

###### a. Program Overview

CURE Epilepsy seeks to promote the careers of young researchers to allow them to develop a research focus independent of their mentor(s). Researchers may propose basic or clinical studies, but this

award mechanism is not intended to support clinical trials. Research that involves collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach is desirable. The applicant researcher will be required to discuss how this avenue of research is independent from his or her mentor's research and will lead him or her to a path of independent epilepsy research. We encourage studies that will provide new directions for epilepsy therapy, prevention and, ultimately, a cure and that will allow Grantees to collect the data necessary to support grant applications to the National Institutes of Health or similar granting agency. Information on CURE Epilepsy's priority areas can be found on CURE Epilepsy's website and in the Taking Flight Guidelines. Requests may be made for up to \$100,000 for one year.

**b. Eligibility Requirements**

Applicant researchers must fall into one of the following categories to be eligible for the Taking Flight Award:

- A senior postdoctoral fellow who has a minimum of 3 years postdoctoral experience.
- A clinical fellow who is a Neurology Resident in his/her Neurology training and considering Epilepsy Fellowships.
- Newly appointed faculty within one year of having completed postdoctoral training.

International applicants are welcome. All materials must be submitted in English.

**1.2 CURE Epilepsy Award**

**a. Program Overview**

The CURE Epilepsy Award priority areas reflect CURE Epilepsy's continued focus on scientific advances that have the potential to truly transform the lives of those affected by epilepsy, with prevention and disease modification as critical goals. These areas include: transformative research to enhance our understanding of the cellular, molecular, genetic and systems-level mechanisms that lead to any of the epilepsies; innovative approaches that can prevent, modify and/or arrest the development of acquired epilepsy; research that will inform the development of novel therapies to prevent onset or halt the progression of the severe pediatric epilepsies; research focused on new, effective treatments for the >30% of the epilepsy population who are pharmaco-resistant; and research into SUDEP and sleep and epilepsy. More information on CURE Epilepsy's priority areas can be found on CURE Epilepsy's website and in the CURE Epilepsy Award Guidelines.

**b. Eligibility Requirements**

This award is available to both established and early career researchers. Researchers who serve on CURE Epilepsy's Scientific

Advisory Council are ineligible to apply for or sponsor a grant for the duration of their term.

Researchers from the same institution can submit letters of intent and apply for the same award. Researchers cannot receive funding on two different CURE Epilepsy awards at the same time. If applying for an award with a collaborator who is currently funded by CURE Epilepsy, they must be listed as collaborator and not Co-Principal Investigator. A co-Principal researcher can request a salary, where as a collaborator cannot.

International applicants are welcome. All materials must be submitted in English.

### **1.3 CURE Epilepsy Catalyst Award**

#### **a. Program Overview**

CURE Epilepsy funds research that has the potential to truly transform and save lives. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to stimulate and accelerate discovery and development of new, transformative therapies for epilepsy, moving promising, well-supported preclinical and/or clinical research closer to clinical application. The award is intended to support nimble development of data necessary to attract larger commercialization funding opportunities and is not intended to replace those opportunities. Projects based on novel biological pathways and/or highly differentiated therapeutic approaches which are likely to have a high probability of success transitioning to clinical development are strongly encouraged. The award is not intended to fund basic research on the mechanisms underlying epilepsy.

#### **b. Eligibility Requirements**

This award is available to independent researchers at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) at universities and non-academic research institutions, including small biotechnology companies, that seek to develop new interventions for epilepsy. International applicants are welcome. Postdoctoral fellows may not apply for this award. All materials must be submitted in English.

## **2. Grant Application Process, Budget, and Implementation**

### **2.1 Letter of Intent**

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). Updated guidelines specific to each award will be announced and can be found on CURE Epilepsy's website.

Applicants can submit more than one application per award mechanism and are also allowed to submit applications to more than one award mechanism (if eligible), but the goals, hypothesis and outcomes for each application must be distinctly unique. LOIs must be submitted in proposalCENTRAL

(<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>). LOIs sent to CURE Epilepsy directly will not be accepted.

## **2.2 LOI Review Process**

LOIs are reviewed by CURE Epilepsy’s Research Team and a panel of scientific peer reviewers. When assessing applications, reviewers consider:

- 1) quality of the science
- 2) whether the work proposed can be achieved within the parameters of the award
- 3) whether the proposed work meets the goals of the program
- 4) whether the proposed project is aligned with CURE Epilepsy’s mission, and
- 5) whether the applicant followed instructions and stayed within page limits

Applicants are notified via proposalCENTRAL as to whether they have been invited to advance to the full proposal phase.

## **2.3 Full Application and Review**

Applicants who are invited and advance to the full application phase are required to submit a full application which will include information on project background, hypothesis, specific aims of the research, preliminary data (if available), expected outcomes and interpretations for proposed objectives the (“Application”). The Application must include input from the Investigator and be approved for submission by the Institution.

Each grant Application is reviewed by three external scientific reviewers who are selected because of their expertise in different sub-specialties of epilepsy research as well as a member of CURE Epilepsy’s Lay Review Council (LRC). The LRC is made up of people with epilepsy and the loved ones of people with epilepsy who have a special interest in finding a cure. Members of the LRC contribute to CURE Epilepsy’s grant review process by reading research proposals from a lay perspective, which helps ensure that the stakeholder point of view is critically represented during the grant review process.

Applications are discussed among the committee members and CURE Epilepsy Research Team and scored. It is important to keep in mind that a key factor that reviewers consider when assessing Applications is feasibility. Lower scores will be given to Applications that are not realistically achievable within the allotted timeframe.

Applicants should refer to the Guidelines available on the CURE Epilepsy website for specific details for preparing the Application.

Should an Application not be selected for funding, applicants are encouraged to re-apply starting with re-submission of a LOI.

### **3. CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement**

**3.1** If an Application is approved for funding, the Investigator and the Institution will be required to enter into a customary CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement. Said agreement specifies that the CURE Epilepsy funding will be given directly to the Institution, and the Institution will then oversee the Investigator's conduct of and adherence to the funded research project as outlined in the proposal narrative. The Institution will use the CURE Epilepsy funds to pay certain expenses for conducting the project, all in accordance with a mutually approved financial budget.

**3.2** CURE Epilepsy has developed "Standard Terms for CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement" (Exhibit B), plus a template for the "CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement." These documents detail the customary terms and agreements pursuant by which research grants will be funded and administered. While such standard terms will generally be required for each grant, CURE Epilepsy has the discretion to make such modifications in the standard terms as it deems to be appropriate and in the best interest of CURE Epilepsy. Applicant should review the CURE Epilepsy website for specific details regarding the substantive content of the Standard Terms for the CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement.

**3.3** If the grant is to be a for-profit employer organization, then there may be various changes and revisions to the substance of the CURE Epilepsy Grant Agreement and Standard Terms.

### **4. Approval of Policy**

This Policy was approved by CURE Epilepsy as of January 2021.